

## Seattle, WA Rewarding Youth Achievement Program

**Profile of Partners/ Target Area:** The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDC) is a nonprofit organization that supports and funds providers of employment and training services and connects job seekers with employers. Through strategic partnerships with business, labor and community organizations, the WDC supports innovative employment-related programs, many of which are national recognized. A consortium of partners including the Seattle Public Schools, the City of Seattle Summer Youth Employment Program, Upward Bound, Seattle Community Colleges and the University of Washington came together to design Seattle's RYA program that enhances the math and science experiences of in-school youth at six high schools in the Seattle Public School District.

**Area Served:** The six high schools selected for Seattle RYA are located in the central and south portions of the Enterprise Community (EC) in neighborhoods marked by poverty and unemployment rates three times the Seattle average. Neighborhoods in the EC contain the highest crime rates in the city and have been focal points for gang-related violence. About one in seven (14%) of households earning less than \$18,000 per year live in the EC-versus 7% of the City's total households. The poverty rate nearly averages 65% for youth and 50% for adults in the poorest block groups of the EC neighborhoods. The six schools selected are: Rainier Beach, Southlake (alternative), Cleveland, Chief Sealth, West Seattle, and Franklin.

**Profile of Participants/Outcomes:** Of the 435 youth enrolled in RYA, 60% are female, 40% are male. They are 34% Asian; 38% Black; 12% White and 10% Hispanic. 3/4<sup>ths</sup> of the students are between 14-16 years of age at enrollment, with the remainder 17-18.

Total number of students served: 435 (target 425)

Students returning to high school: 435 (currently enrolled)

Students entering post-secondary: 1

603 had summer or school year jobs or internships (some students have had two work experiences)

Additional outcomes: 231 youth received high school credit in math and science during the summer program; 60 youth took college level summer or school year courses; 435 youth received mentoring services; 285 received career assessment; 212 received tutoring or homework assistance; 270 took part in leadership development; and 393 took part in college bound activities. Please note that our fourth quarter numbers are not in yet and it is expected that all enrolled participants will have successfully completed the required passport activities.

### Success Stories:

Seattle has had major success in having ninety-five employers provide work based learning opportunities for participants. Participating employers included: Antioch University, City of Seattle, the Federal Reserve Bank, Greyhound, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, IKEA, Old Navy, Northwest Millwork, First Choice Health Network, Commerce Bank of WA, Federal Reserve Bank, South Seattle Community College, the University of Washington Medical Center,

the US Departments of Labor and Housing, Woodland Park Zoo and the Veteran Administration Hospital. Some specific examples include:

- **Harborview Hospital: Neurosurgery Department:** The intern spent a week in each division of Neurosurgery included reception, medical records, patient services, patient care, hospital liaison and family care. In each division the intern shadowed a staff person and then assisted in the work of that department for the rest of the week.
- **Northwest Millwork:** This intern position offered an opportunity for a student interest in either manufacturing or finance. The intern's responsibilities were to research products on the web and in catalogues, solicit bids, and maintain data related to purchasing. The intern was also introduced to the Timberline Job costing system, which is widely used in the construction business. During the internship, the student initiated a project to put the company's material safety data sheets online.
- **Virginia Mason Hospital – Finance Division Support:** The interns learning objectives for this position was to learn how to prepare and reconcile cost data and to learn the basics of Visual Basic Programming.

#### PROFILE OF SERVICES TO YOUTH

- **Math and Science Enhancement:** Twenty-two (22) project-based courses are offered in math and science. These projects provide individualized instruction in math/science academics coupled with hands-on experience in math/science occupations. Students receive ½ elective math or science credit. Examples include courses on: the mapping a forest in the school district, population genetics and DNA; emergency disaster preparedness, urban stewardship – water ecology, introduction to technology and introduction to marine biology.
- **Enriched Summer Experience:** Students are able to receive .5 credits towards math or science and other areas in a cross section of courses or programs offered by different entities in the community. For example, IAM Cares operated "Skyward Bound" in which youth gained vocational aviation credit through experiential learning that includes applied math, manufacturing, mechanical engineering and basic employability skills. Youth experienced the building process of aircraft from beginning to end. The El Centro de la Raza offered "Pergola Art Structure" in which youth gained academic credit for art and leadership skills while working on a project to temporarily replace the pergola space in Pioneer Square. Youth worked in collaboration with Arts Commission staff to design an community outdoor art piece. Youth researched existing Seattle landmarks and developed reports about maintenance needs. The Southwest Youth & Family Services offered the "Young Writers Workshop." Youth gained language arts and computer credits while applying their academic skills to the writing, editing and publication of a magazine "The Boot: Stories, Essays and Poems from the Street." Youth learned publication software and worked directly with publishing professionals.

- **College Bound Assistance:** RYA Youth took part in a number of events providing college assistance. These include: participation in “Did Somebody Say College” seminars which assists students in preparing and planning for college, both academically and financially; the Black College Fair held at Seattle Central Community College; College Testing and Financial Aid Workshops organized by partners; the National College Fair; the University of Washington Diversity Fair; and SAT prep workshops.
- **Year Round Activities:** Students participate in tutoring sessions held at the RYA high schools and SYEP office, staffed by the University of Washington’s Pipeline Project. Sixty-five RYA youth are co-enrolled in Seattle’s Upward Bound Program which provides academic counseling, mentoring, tutoring and college bound assistance. Tutoring is required for all Upward Bound students based on their current grade point average. Fifty youth are enrolled in Career Academies operated by Seattle Public Schools.

### **Roles of Partners:**

### **Linkages to Existing Program:**

- The City of Seattle’s Upward Bound Program involves the co-enrollment of 65 RYA students. Fifty RYA students are enrolled in one of the public school system’s Career Academies.

### **Public/Private Sector Commitments:**

- Ninety-five employers provided paid internships – see Success Stories above.
- Seattle Public Schools donated 450 tee-shirts
- Widevine Technologies provided marketing assistance and gift certificates

### **Secondary/post-secondary commitments:**

- Campus tours with lunch provided by the school;
- University of Washington’s Pipeline Tutoring Program leverages program dollars to provide RYA with tutors;
- Upward Bound program has a significant funding contribution for their summer program by Seattle University;
- Seattle Community College District provides staff time as a RYA partner to assist with testing and tours, etc.

### **Keys to Success of program:**

- **95 employer paid internships**
- **Leadership activities planned and paid for by employers during the school year**
- **Experienced teachers with Project Based Learning training**
- **Successful academies within the participating schools**
- **Tutors from the University of Washington**

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